

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously presented) A triterpene saponin prepared by a process for the isolation of triterpene saponins belonging to the family *Myrsinaceae*, wherein said saponin is isolated from the plant species *Maesa balansae*, said process comprising

- (a) extracting dried plant parts with an alcohol and concentrating the extract,
- (b) removing the apolar fraction from the extract by liquid-liquid extraction with an apolar solvent, and
- (c) further purifying the saponin in the alcohol extract by liquid-liquid extraction, filtration and chromatography, wherein the chromatography comprises reversed-phase liquid chromatography with gradient eluent system using

A : 0.5 % ammonium acetate in water

B : methanol

C : acetonitrile

wherein at $t = 0$, (A:B:C) = (60:20:20) and at $t = \text{end}$, (A:B:C) = (0:50:50), and wherein said saponin has the following characteristics:

Compound 1 : MW = 1532, $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 228.6 \text{ nm}$, $\lambda_{\text{max}2} = 273.3 \text{ nm}$;

Compound 2 : MW = 1510, $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 223.9 \text{ nm}$, $\lambda_{\text{max}2} = 274.5 \text{ nm}$;

Compound 3 : MW = 1532, $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 279.2 \text{ nm}$, $\lambda_{\text{max}2} = 223.9 \text{ nm}$;

Compound 4 : MW = 1510, $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 280.4 \text{ nm}$, $\lambda_{\text{max}2} = 222.7 \text{ nm}$;

Compound 5 : MW = 1574, $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 276.8 \text{ nm}$, $\lambda_{\text{max}2} = 225.0 \text{ nm}$; or

Compound 6 : MW = 1552, $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 279.2 \text{ nm}$, $\lambda_{\text{max}2} = 223.9 \text{ nm}$.

16. (Previously presented) The triterpene saponin according to claim 15 wherein the alcohol is methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, or butanol, each optionally admixed with water.

17. (Currently amended) ~~A process~~ **The triterpene saponin** according to claim 15 wherein the ~~saponin~~ **saponin** of the alcohol extract are further purified by

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extracting the aqueous fraction with butanol saturated with water,
evaporating the organic layer to dryness,
washing the residue in a ketone, and
filtering off the crude saponin mixture.

18. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and as an active ingredient a triterpene saponin according to claim 15.

Claims 19-21. (Cancelled)